THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In order to catalyse investment in construction and development projects as an instrument to generate economic activity, create new employment opportunities and add to the available housing stock and built-up infrastructure, the Government has allowed FDI upto 100% under the automatic route for townships housing built-up infrastructure and construction-development projects which would include housing commercial premises, hotels, resorts, hospitals, educational institutions, recreational facilities, city and regional level infrastructure rather than limiting it to only development of integrated townships. This has been done after due deliberations at various levels.

Since the new Policy has taken effect recently the actual benefit can be assessed only after some time.

Shortage of houses in urban areas

†2154. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment regarding shortage of housing units in urban areas;

(b) if so, the shortage so assessed at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the projected shortage by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the number of houses proposed to be constructed during the Tenth Five Year Plan period in Government and private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) By the end of Ninth Five Year Plan period urban housing shortage was estimated as 8.89 million.

(c) The total number of urban houses required cumulatively during the Tenth Five Year Plan period is assessed at 22.44 million.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Two Million Housing Programme was launched in 1998-1999 under which 7 lakh dwelling units are to be constructed in Urban areas and 13 lakh in rural areas every year.

In addition to this, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme called Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) is being implemented since 2.12.2001 with a view to provide shelter or upgrade the existing shelter for the urban slum dwellers living below poverty line who do not possess adequate shelter.

UNDP Project for Poverty Alleviation

2155. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) is taking up a pilot project in the country for poverty alleviation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The development objective of the Government of India (GOI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Project for the National Strategy for Urban Poor signed in October, 2003 is to support adoption of a new national strategy for urban poverty reduction at the Centre and the States, based on informed debates, local/international experience and research findings on the causes and potential responses to urban poverty keeping in mind that institutional reforms to improve efficiency and accelerate human development progress are needed. The project would support a combination of initiatives like action research, platform and network building for dialogue on policies and regulations, a facility to support and disseminate best practices on urban livelihood and targeted support to community associations and NGOs for actual ground level work through two distinct but mutually reinforcing components, *viz.*, All India (National Component) and a Specific Delhi (National Capital Region-NCR) Component.